

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:JSMITH:LJP

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. LOWENSTEIN

AID: SCHWARTZWALDER

S/S-O: P. JOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 902

TAGS: E AID PO

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL TALKS WITH PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT

REF: SECTO 366

FOR HARTMAN FROM LOWENSTEIN

1. WE INFORMED THE GOP SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT WE PLANNED TO SEND A TEAM TO LISBON, POSSIBLY DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11, TO CONDUCT THE TECHNICAL TALKS AGREED ON BY THE SECRETARY AND COSTA GOMES. WE ASKED AID TO MAKE AVAILABLE TWO OR THREE SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICERS FOR THIS PURPOSE. AID HAS AGREED TO MAKE TWO OFFICERS AVAILABLE PROVIDED THE TEAM IS LED BY A DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICER SO THAT TEAM WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE AN AID TEAM AND THUS RAISE UNFOUNDED HOPES. THE TWO AID OFFICERS PLAN TO ARRIVE IN LISBON NOVEMBER 13. SINCE PORTUGUESE COUNTRY DIRECTOR LUKENS IS CURRENTLY IN LISBON, IF YOU AGREE WE CAN ASK HIM TO REMAIN THERE AND LEAD THE TEAM. (LUKENS KNOWS OF THIS POSSIBILITY AND IS PREPARED TO DO SO).

2. AID ALSO CONSIDERS IT ADVISABLE TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESS BEFORE TEAM DEPARTS. SINCE VIRTUALLY NO MEMBERS EITHER

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HOUSE NOW IN TOWN, I SUGGEST, IF YOU AGREE, THAT BEFORE

TEAM'S DEPARTURE WE EXPLAIN TO CHIEFS OF STAFFS OF RELEVANT
COMMITTEES THAT PURPOSE OF TEAM IS SIMPLY TO OBTAIN CLEARER
UNDERSTANDING OF GOP IDEAS RE POSSIBLE TECHNICAL COOPERATION
WITH US AND THAT TEAM WILL NOT RPT NOT MAKE ANY COMMIT-
MENT WHATSOEVER. INGERSOLL

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